

THE VANCOUVER HUMANE SOCIETY PRESENTS

animal

www.vancouverhumanesociety.bc.ca
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Ramping up efforts to end rodeo cruelty

With the 2024 rodeo season underway, the VHS continues to campaign for an end to inhumane rodeo events. This includes reaching out to decision-makers at various levels about growing public opposition to rodeo and the harms of roping, wrestling, and bucking events.

Last year, the VHS shared footage from harmful rodeo events across B.C. and encouraged supporters to reach out to their local decision-makers to ban these events. An opinion piece published in the Daily Hive in November entitled "A stressful and fear-filled glimpse into an animal's first rodeo" outlined the welfare concerns around rodeo, highlighting recent footage from a steer riding event in Merritt.

To date, around 6,000 people have used the VHS's quick action tool to share footage from recent rodeos with their local city council and to call for a bylaw to prohibit inhumane rodeo events in their community.

Meanwhile, the VHS is working with concerned Calgarians to call for an end to the controversial rodeo and deadly chuckwagon races at the Calgary Stampede. In May, the VHS launched a new billboard campaign to raise awareness of how animals suffer when used in rodeo events. The billboards will run across Calgary leading up to, during, and after the Calgary Stampede. The billboards have been shared by major Calgary media including CTV News Calgary, Global News, and the Daily Hive.

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The billboards also draw attention to new polling conducted by Research Co., commissioned by the VHS, which found that more than half of Calgarians oppose government funding of rodeo events. The poll also found that more than half of Albertans disagree with the use of animals in steer wrestling (54%), calf roping (51%), and bronc riding (51%). When presented with photos of calf roping, 60% of Albertans and 62% of Calgarians said they would "probably" or "definitely" not watch the event.

Nationally, more than half of Canadians disagree with the use of animals in the five rodeo events surveyed: steer wrestling (61%), calf roping (60%), bull riding (55%), bronc riding (also 55%) and chuckwagon racing (53%). In



terms of the use of taxpayer dollars to fund rodeo events, almost two thirds of Canadians (65%) disagree with the government providing such funding.

Take quick action:
www.vancouverhumane.ca/bc-rodeos

Read the news articles:
www.vancouverhumane.ca/rodeo-billboards

Read the survey results (PDF):
www.vancouverhumane.ca/rodeo-research

Are you feeling burnt out as an advocate?

Kimberly Carroll from Animal Justice joined the VHS on The Informed Animal Ally podcast to discuss strategies and tips for dealing with compassion fatigue and burnout. Listen at www.vancouverhumane.ca/podcasts.



Your art purchase helps animals

This year, your art purchase helps animals! Until the end of 2024, Vancouver Island-based painter and animal lover Teresa Knight will donate 50% of everything sold through her website toward the Vancouver Humane Society's work to end animal suffering. Browse available art at www.teresaknight.com.

Animals getting the urgent care they need

An update from the McVitie Fund



Iris needs help with her tumor

Meet Iris, a small dog with a big zest for life!

Iris' previous guardian unfortunately became very ill and was unable to continue taking care of her. Amina took her in after the two immediately connected and they have been each other's loyal companions ever since.

Recently, Amina noticed that Iris has had less of an appetite and been panting irregularly. Upon further investigation, she found a lump on her side. Amina took Iris to the vet where initial testing determined that the mass is likely cancerous and the cause of her other symptoms.

As a senior on a low income, Amina always ensures she has emergency funds set aside for times like this. However, she was recently in an accident where she broke her ankle and has not been able to work since. She had to use most of her emergency fund during her recovery and spent the rest on Iris's diagnostic appointment. The surgery Iris requires is \$1,500 and beyond what Amina is able to afford. That is why she has reached out to the Vancouver Humane Society for support.

Can you donate today at www.vancouverhumane.ca/iris to help Iris get the life-saving surgery she needs to continue living her adventurous life?

Daniel the kitten is back home safe

When his family noticed that Daniel had lost his big personality and charm and seemed to be in a great deal of pain, they rushed him to the vet where several rounds of testing revealed that he was suffering from a severe obstruction.

The cost of the initial appointment and several diagnostic tests used up all the savings that Daniel's guardian, Luke, had. This meant that he was unable to afford the life-saving surgery that Daniel needed.

When the VHS put a call out for support for Daniel, his heartwarming bond with his guardian Luke and the rest of his family touched our community and they were able to generously come together to help raise the funds needed to save Daniel's life. Thanks to this incredible display of community, Daniel was able to get the life-saving care he needed.

Luke and his family are endlessly grateful for the show of support they have received. They told the VHS's McVitie team that Daniel is an integral part of their family and they are forever grateful for the joy he brings to their lives. Luke also shared some heartwarming pictures of Daniel back at home, cuddled up next to his brother Mitts.

Thank you to the incredible kindness of everyone who donated, liked, shared, and sent well wishes for Daniel.



10 years of advocacy: A message from Emily Pickett

This May I celebrated 10 years of working with the VHS. In that time, I've seen many incredible wins for animals. I've also seen recurring themes when it comes to the issues facing animals and the advocates working to help them.

One such theme is that over the past decade, there have been near-annual investigations at farms and slaughterhouses in British Columbia alone. Each of these investigations has revealed recurring animal welfare issues that point to serious and systemic problems across the animal agriculture industry. I joined the VHS's Informed Animal Ally podcast recently to discuss this topic in-depth. You can listen to or read a transcript of the episode at www.vancouverhumane.ca/podcasts.

The recurring issues, including lack of oversight, transparency, and enforcement, have long been raised by the VHS and other animal advocacy organizations. In late 2022, B.C.'s Ministry of Agriculture launched a review of the province's farmed animal welfare framework. In March, the government-appointed



committee tasked with reviewing the framework released a report with a number of recommendations that touch on the issues of oversight, transparency, and enforcement.

Some of these recommendations include a new government-funded inspection and enforcement function within the Ministry of Agriculture, which would take over responsibility for implementation of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act with respect to farmed animals. Other recommendations include providing an annual public report around enforcement

activities; an expanded range of enforcement options and penalties; and animal welfare and humane handling training improvements.

The VHS has launched a quick action tool for the public to send a message to the B.C. government in support of the report and to encourage additional actions that build on the report's recommendations. Learn more and take action at: www.vancouverhumane.ca/protect-farmed-animals-bc.

Sincerely,

Emily Pickett
Campaign Director

Watch for plant-based bus ads in Vancouver



Vancouver residents will soon be able to see new messages from the Vancouver Humane Society's Plant University platform on buses across the city. The ads will encourage people to eat more plants by highlighting the heart health benefits of a plant-forward diet. If every person in Vancouver swapped just one day a week of animal-based foods for plant-based, they could save more than 37 million animals every year!

Two farmed animal codes of practice being updated for the first time in more than a decade



The National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC) is currently updating both the Beef Cattle Code of Practice and the Equine Code of Practice! This is the first time since 2013 that both codes, which serve as the guidelines for on-farm handling of animals across Canada, have been updated.

Public feedback from animal supporters is critical in addressing serious welfare issues for farmed animals.

When the Dairy Cattle Code of Practice was updated, it received a record-setting 5,800+ comments, which prompted stronger restrictions around abusive handling, changes to housing models, and a ban on branding.

The VHS recently reached out to animal allies to provide their top three welfare concerns about cattle and horses on farms during the NFACC's initial feedback period, which ended in early May.

Because They Matter is back!

The VHS is very excited to announce that the 'Because They Matter' fundraising event will return on Sunday, July 21st for the fourth year running! Participants will help distribute pet supplies and information about accessing veterinary care to guardians and their animals who spend their days on the streets of Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.

Last year, Because They Matter event participants handed out thousands of pet supplies, all generously donated by local businesses and organizations, as well as hundreds of pamphlets about the Vancouver Humane Society's McVitie Fund program.

This event supports people who are dealing with the stress, trauma, and uncertainty that can come with a beloved companion animal becoming sick or injured in combination with the challenges of living on a low income. It also provides an opportunity for residents of the neighbourhood to pick up much-needed supplies for their animal companions.

Through this event, the VHS's goal is to raise \$15,750, which will help fund the high demand for the VHS's vital veterinary care services and contribute to the \$250,000 spent on veterinary care each year.

Want to add your support? Everyone is welcome to participate in person or online. To learn more visit www.vancouverhumane.ca/because-they-matter.



Thank you to our donors

Thank you to the following, who remembered loved ones with a gift to help animals:

Arjun Shankar in memory of Daisy Shankar
Gail Buron in memory of Simba in Furry Spirit Universe
Lori MacIntosh in memory of Saffron
Joanne Pagnucco and Roxy in memory of Sylvester
Linda Chernenkoff in memory of Oliver, Linda's ginger cat
Susan Gioia in memory of Boo Boo
Laura Cooper in memory of Gypsy and in honour of her humans, Elaine and Emma
Janice Zajac in memory of Fritz
Elizabeth Tait in memory of Sofie the best cat ever
Adam Farrell in memory of Bailey
Sheryl Smith in memory of Gypsy
Cassandra Hanson and Greg Cassap in memory of Stan Carter
Katie Slater in memory of Katie's baby boy Blaze
Anne Dibben in memory of Shirley Dibben
Gerard Boris Cure-Boulay in memory of Bianca
Lara Menzies in memory of Baby Menzies
Chantal Scrimini in memory of Tucker Scrimini Chu

Thank you to the following, who honoured others with a gift for the animals:

Desiree Hauswald in honour of Dianne
Mimi Bouchard in honour of Chris Anco
Ruth Archambault in honour of Chantelle
Sharon Rudyk in honour of Ty and Brad
Brooklyn Fowler-Moros in honour of Emma Moros
Terence Leeke in honour of John
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Keara Gillis in honour of Solider, and his late brother Irish
Penny Osborne in honour of Jack & Yvonne Osborne
Jennifer Fletcher in honour of Honey Morrison

We thank those who have generously left a gift to VHS in their will. Their memories will live on in our work for animals:

The Estate of Blair Arthur Plumridge

Thank you to the following businesses and organizations that support our work:

Finlandia Pharmacy

We would like to sincerely thank the following foundations for their generous funding through grants:

Karuna Foundation
The Moore Family Foundation, through Private Giving Foundation
Dr. Hinda Avery Foundation, through Vancity Community Foundation in memory of Mary Auerbach

Andre & Trudel Kroecker Fund, held at Nicola Wealth Private Giving Foundation
Dr. Hinda Avery Foundation, through Aqueduct Foundation in memory of Mary Auerbach
Provincial Employees Community Services Fund
RBC Foundation
Peter & June Young Legacy Fund through Vancouver Foundation
Gary Steven Loo Animal Welfare Endowment Fund through Vancouver Foundation

We are truly grateful to our amazing volunteers, who give their time to support our work.

Our monthly donors are our heroes. Thank you to all of you, from the bottom of our hearts!



District of North Vancouver passes plant-forward motion

Thanks to the support of advocates in the District of North Vancouver, a recent motion to prioritize climate-friendly, healthy and humane plant-based food purchasing successfully passed at the May 6th council meeting! The motion, put forward by Councillor Jim Hanson, calls on the District to ensure plant-based options are included and prioritized at municipal events, meetings and other gatherings where the District purchases food.



The motion was supported by local advocates, members of the Plant-Based Cities Movement (PBCM), and VHS supporters who live in the District. The VHS and the PBCM have been working together to advocate for plant-based municipal policies and will continue to support the District of North Vancouver in the implementation of this successful motion.

New resources on compassion fatigue



The VHS has continued to offer free online courses and workshops to help animal service organizations keep more animals in loving homes through trauma-informed, outreach-focused practices. To date, there have been 1,613

participants, with 45% based in Canada. In Canada, most participants are based in British Columbia and Ontario.

The training program has reached many national and local animal welfare organizations.

These include Paws for Hope, the BC SPCA, Whistler WAG, Langley Animal Protection Society, and Little Mittens Animal Rescue Society. Participants say they experienced positive changes in communication skills and attitudes after taking the training and found that it has helped enhance their empathy in approaches to difficult situations.

By the summer, the VHS will host all online resources on our website, including webinars, recorded workshops, PDF cheat sheets, and more, making these resources accessible and readily available to anyone interested in trauma-informed practice, leadership, and compassion fatigue.

Learn more about the training program at www.vancouverhumane.ca/training or contact the Program Manager, Sareeta Lopez, at traumainformed@vancouverhumanesociety.bc.ca or 236-521-7742.

Bud & Buddy's legacy

Retired tennis player and coach, Bud, is "terribly passionate about animals," and his great love is dogs. "I have an electric scooter that I put everyone's lives in danger with driving down the streets of Steveston," Bud explained, "but I also carry dog biscuits with me for the dogs I meet." As you can imagine, Bud is very popular with the dogs in his neighbourhood and known for taking good care of them. He's leaving a legacy gift to the VHS that will ensure dogs and all animals continue to be cared for well into the future.



Bud explained that the VHS has been "centerfold" in his Will for 25 years. It was around that time that Bud took in a yellow lab from a family that was struggling with taking care of their puppy. Bud named his new companion Buddy. Bud and Buddy quickly became family, and "everyone knew it," Bud said. "He was with me through thick and thin." Buddy was with Bud for 12 years and 8 months. "He helped me understand the love of animals."

Bud empathizes with folks reeling from the effects of COVID-19 and struggling to afford sudden vet bills. The VHS's work to fund emergency veterinary care for pets of low-income guardians through the McVitie Fund is very important to Bud.

Aside from dogs, Bud is appalled by rodeo cruelty, and let us know that he's been pleased to read of recent successes in the VHS's work to curtail these inhumane events.

Bud generously donates what he can to the VHS, his "number one charity." But he has to "watch [his] nickels and dimes like most people do." Like all gifts in Wills, Bud's legacy gift to the VHS will cost him nothing in his lifetime.

By leaving a legacy gift to the VHS, Bud and his late companion Buddy ensure a kinder world for animals for years to come.

COULD YOU MAKE A LEGACY GIFT TO HELP ANIMALS?

For more information, please contact the VHS's Development Coordinator, Katrina Leppänen.

Tel: 604-266-1012

Email: katrina@vancouverhumanesociety.bc.ca



VANCOUVER HUMANE SOCIETY
HELPING PEOPLE HELP ANIMALS

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Web: www.vancouverhumanesociety.bc.ca
Email: info@vancouverhumanesociety.bc.ca
Phone: 604.266.9744

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